

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A telescoping pier foundation system for forming a composite pier foundation filled with cured cementitious material for supporting a structural member of a building, the system comprising:

 a stationary portion of a hollow structure having a solid sidewall and a top end opening;
 at least one telescoping member of a hollow structure having, a top open end and a bottom open end, in longitudinal alignment with the stationary portion, residing within the top end opening of the stationary portion and longitudinally movable within the top end opening and extendable through the top end opening; [[and]]

 at least one fill port for receiving a cementitious mixture, wherein the stationary portion and the telescoping member form an outer shell defining an internal cavity in communication with the at least one fill port for receiving the cementitious mixture; and

a fastening system for securing the composite pier foundation to the structural member of a building, wherein said fastening system comprises an anchoring portion for anchoring the fastening system to the cementitious mixture filling the internal cavity.

2. (Original) The telescoping pier foundation system of claim 1, wherein the fill port for receiving a cementitious mixture is on the telescoping member.

3. (Original) The telescoping pier foundation system of claim 2, wherein the fill port for receiving a cementitious mixture is provided near the top end of the telescoping member.

4. (Original) The telescoping pier foundation system of claim 1, wherein the fill port for receiving a cementitious mixture comprises a check valve.

5. (Previously presented) The telescoping pier foundation system of claim 1, wherein the at least one fill port for receiving a cementitious mixture is provided on the stationary portion.

6. (Currently amended) The telescoping pier foundation system of claim [[23]] 1, further comprising at least one ground anchor for anchoring the composite pier foundation to the

ground.

7. (Original) The telescoping pier foundation system of claim 6, wherein the at least one ground anchor is a helical anchor.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The telescoping pier foundation system of claim [[8]] 1, wherein the fastening system comprises one or more brackets for engaging the structural member of a building.

10. (Original) The telescoping pier foundation system of claim 9, wherein the fastening system further comprises a connector for securing the one or more brackets to the telescoping member.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) the telescoping pier foundation system of claim 1, wherein the stationary portion comprises:

a base; and

a column portion, wherein the top end opening is provided on the column portion.

13. (Original) The telescoping pier foundation system of claim 1, wherein the stationary portion is made from polyvinylchloride.

14. (Original) The telescoping pier foundation system of claim 1, wherein the stationary portion is made from a metal alloy.

15. (Original) The telescoping pier foundation system of claim 1, wherein the at least one telescoping member is made from polyvinylchloride.

16. (Original) The telescoping pier foundation system of claim 1, wherein the at least one

telescoping member is made from a metal alloy.

17. (Original) The telescoping pier foundation system of claim 12, wherein the base is made from polyvinylchloride.

18. (Original) The telescoping pier foundation system of claim 12, wherein the base is made from a metal alloy.

19. (Original) The telescoping pier foundation system of claim 12, wherein the column portion is made from polyvinylchloride.

20. (Original) The telescoping pier foundation system of claim 12, wherein the column portion is made from a metal alloy.

21. (Original) The telescoping pier foundation system of claim 12, wherein a plurality of reinforcement ribs are provided joining the base and the column portion.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A composite pier foundation for supporting a structural member of a building structure comprising:

an outer shell comprising:

a stationary portion of a hollow structure having a solid sidewall and a top end opening;

at least one telescoping member of a hollow structure having a top open end and a bottom open end, in longitudinal alignment with the stationary portion, residing within the top end opening of the stationary portion, longitudinally movable within the top end opening and extendable through the top end opening;

at least one fill port for receiving a cementitious mixture, wherein the stationary portion and the telescoping portion form the outer shell defining an internal cavity in

communication with the at least one fill port for receiving the cementitious mixture;

a core of cured cementitious material substantially filling the internal cavity; and The composite pier foundation of claim 23, further comprising at least one ground anchor having a top portion and a shaft portion, wherein the shaft portion of the ground anchor is driven into the ground beneath the composite pier foundation and the top portion is imbedded in the cured cementitious material.

25. (Original) The composite pier foundation of claim 24, wherein the stationary portion is made from polyvinylchloride.

26. (Original) The composite pier foundation of claim 24, wherein the at least one telescoping member is made from polyvinylchloride.

27. (Original) The composite pier foundation of claim 24, wherein the stationary portion is made from a metal alloy.

28. (Original) The composite pier foundation of claim 24, wherein the at least one telescoping member is made from a metal alloy.

29. (Original) The composite pier foundation of claim 24, wherein the stationary portion comprises:

a base; and

a column portion, wherein the top end opening is provided on the column portion.

30. (Original) The composite pier foundation of claim 29, wherein the base is made from polyvinylchloride.

31. (Original) The composite pier foundation of claim 29, wherein the base is made from a metal alloy.

32. (Original) The composite pier foundation of claim 29, wherein the column portion is made from polyvinylchloride.

33. (Original) The composite pier foundation of claim 29, wherein the column portion is made from a metal alloy.

34. (Currently amended) The composite pier foundation of claim ~~[[22]]~~ 24, wherein the cured cementitious mixture is concrete.

35. (Currently amended) The composite pier foundation of claim ~~[[22]]~~ 24, wherein the at least one telescoping member comprises a fastening system for securing the telescoping member to a structural member of a building.

36. (Currently amended) The composite pier foundation of claim 35, wherein the fastening system comprises one or more brackets for engaging the structural member of a building.

37. (Currently amended) The composite pier foundation of claim 36, wherein the fastening system further comprises a connector for securing the one or more brackets to the telescoping member.

38. (Currently amended) The composite pier foundation of claim 35, wherein the fastening system comprises an anchoring portion for anchoring the fastening system to the cementitious mixture filling the internal cavity.

39. (Currently amended) A method of installing a telescoping pier foundation system, the method comprising:

driving at least one ground anchor having a top portion into the ground beneath a structural member of a building;

positioning an outer shell of the telescoping pier foundation system beneath ~~[[a]]~~ the structural member of ~~[[a]]~~ the building, the outer shell having an internal cavity, wherein the positioned outer shell covers the at least one ground anchor and the top portion of the at least one ground anchor extends into the internal cavity of the outer shell;

raising a telescoping member of the outer shell until the telescoping member contacts the structural member of the building;

securing the telescoping member to the structural member of the building;
filling the internal cavity of the outer shell substantially fully with a cementitious mixture; and
allowing the cementitious mixture to cure forming a composite pier foundation, wherein the top portion of the at least one ground anchor is embedded within the cured cementitious mixture.

40. (Canceled)

41. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the step of securing the telescoping member to the structural member of the building requires the use of a fastening system that connects directly to the telescoping member.

42. (New) A telescoping pier foundation system for forming a composite pier foundation filled with cured cementitious material for supporting a structural member of a building, the system comprising:

a stationary portion of a hollow structure having a solid sidewall and a top end opening;
at least one telescoping member of a hollow structure having, a top open end and a bottom open end, in longitudinal alignment with the stationary portion, residing within the top end opening of the stationary portion and longitudinally movable within the top end opening and extendable through the top end opening;

at least one fill port for receiving a cementitious mixture, wherein the stationary portion and the telescoping member form an outer shell defining an internal cavity in communication with the at least one fill port for receiving the cementitious mixture,

wherein the stationary portion comprises a base and a column portion, wherein the top end opening of the stationary portion is provided on the column portion and a plurality of reinforcement ribs are provided joining the base and the column portion.

43. (New) A telescoping pier foundation system for forming a composite pier foundation filled with cured cementitious material for supporting a structural member of a building, the system comprising:

a stationary portion of a hollow structure having a solid sidewall and a top end opening;

at least one telescoping member of a hollow structure having, a top open end and a bottom open end, in longitudinal alignment with the stationary portion, residing within the top end opening of the stationary portion and longitudinally movable within the top end opening and extendable through the top end opening;

at least one fill port for receiving a cementitious mixture, wherein the stationary portion and the telescoping member form an outer shell defining an internal cavity in communication with the at least one fill port for receiving the cementitious mixture; and

at least one ground anchor having a top portion and a shaft portion, wherein the shaft portion of the ground anchor gets driven into the ground beneath the composite pier foundation and the top portion is imbedded in the cured cementitious material when the telescoping pier foundation system is installed.

44. (New) A composite pier foundation for supporting a structural member of a building structure comprising:

an outer shell comprising:

a stationary portion of a hollow structure having a solid sidewall and a top end opening;

at least one telescoping member of a hollow structure having a top open end and a bottom open end, in longitudinal alignment with the stationary portion, residing within the top end opening of the stationary portion, longitudinally movable within the top end opening and extendable through the top end opening;

at least one fill port for receiving a cementitious mixture, wherein the stationary portion and the telescoping portion form the outer shell defining an internal cavity in communication with the at least one fill port for receiving the cementitious mixture;

a core of cured cementitious material substantially filling the internal cavity; and

a fastening system for securing the telescoping member to a structural member of a building, wherein said fastening system comprises an anchoring portion for anchoring the fastening system to the cementitious mixture filling the internal cavity.

45. (New) A method of installing a telescoping pier foundation system, the method comprising:

positioning an outer shell of the telescoping pier foundation system beneath a structural

member of a building, the outer shell defining an internal cavity;

securing a fastening system to the structural member of the building, wherein the fastening system comprises an anchoring portion for anchoring the fastening system to a cementitious mixture filling the internal cavity;

raising a telescoping member of the outer shell until the anchoring portion of the fastening system extends into the telescoping member;

filling the internal cavity of the outer shell substantially fully with a cementitious mixture; and

allowing the cementitious mixture to cure forming a composite pier foundation.

46. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising the steps of:

driving at least one ground anchor having a top portion into the ground beneath a structural member of a building before positioning the outer shell of the telescoping pier foundation system beneath the structural member of the building, wherein the positioned outer shell covers the at least one ground anchor and the top portion of the at least one ground anchor extends into the internal cavity of the outer shell and the top portion of the at least one ground anchor is embedded within the cured cementitious mixture.